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McFarlane says more effort needed to put down spying

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Former national security adviser Robert C. McFarlane, in his first speech since leaving office, said yesterday the United States should make greater efforts to reduce spying even at the cost of straining U.S.-Soviet relations.

Mr. McFarlane, who resigned from office last week amid reports that he disagreed with the leadership style of White House Chief of Staff Donald T. Regan, said "getting more serious on counterintelligence is an expression of realism" in U.S.-Soviet relations.

He said President Reagan and his Cabinet officers have taken a different approach to spying in the United States and plan to "tell it as it is" without regard for diplomatic repercussions.

"We can't tolerate unbridled access to our secrets or the burgeoning number of hostile foreign agents in our country," Mr. McFarlane said in response to questions after a speech before the World Affairs Council.

Despite increases in FBI counterspying resources over the past few years, Mr. McFarlane, who will remain at the NSC until the end of the year, said a greater effort is needed.

"We don't have near enough resources in the FBI to do the job," he said. "We ought to put more into it."

During the early 1970s, efforts to stop Soviet spying in the United States were hindered because "we tried to avoid what would evoke a protest from the Soviet Union," Mr. McFarlane said.

"You can't do that," he said. "You have to deal honestly with threats to your security."

Mr. McFarlane said he expected the president to take action soon to reduce the number of hostile intelligence officers in the United States.

He dismissed as "nonsense" the argument that a crackdown on Soviet spying would damage the progress made during the U.S.-Soviet summit in Geneva.

"Equality is reasonable, reciprocity is reasonable, kicking out people who are doing you harm is reasonable," Mr. McFarlane said.

He said "it is not too much to ask" of government employees who handle U.S. secrets to waive certain civil liberties in the interest of national security by allowing frequent back-

ground checks, provided such investigations are conducted "with care."

Those who object to such investigations should not be allowed to deal with secrets, he said.

Regarding the summit meeting last month between Mr. Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Mr. McFarlane said it was "too soon to tell" what the effects of the meeting will be on arms control negotiations.

Mr. Gorbachev could gain a better understanding of the United States from a visit, Mr. McFarlane said. He mentioned Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping as an example of a communist leader who was favorably impressed after a visit.

In his speech, Mr. McFarlane defended Mr. Reagan's goals of rearmament and restoring a sense of national purpose.

"Through five years of steady rebuilding he has accomplished just that," Mr. McFarlane said. "You all know the dimensions of the economic recovery, but it has also provided the underpinning for a revival in foreign policy that has been just as impressive."

As examples, he cited U.S. support for Pakistan after Sovietbacked border raids from Afghanistan, continued allied support for U.S. intermediate-range missiles in Europe and support for a democratic government in El Salvador "even though many in our country have called Central American Leninist revolutions inevitable." The Geneva summit was the culmination of five years of successful foreign policy, Mr. McFarlane said. For further progress to continue, U.S.-Soviet relations must be based on "realism, patience and determination," he said.

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